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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Wednesday - 18 April 1973

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5. [] Discussed with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, a recent problem regarding an outside contractor. He suggested that as Acting Chairman, Senator Symington should be alerted to this and we agreed Carl Duckett would be the best person to meet with him on the matter.

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Braswell asked about our Committee appearances and when I told him of our scheduled meeting with the House Appropriations "Special Group" this afternoon to bring them up to date on personnel reductions, Braswell requested that we be sure to supply him with the same information we were giving the Mahon group. He said Chairman Stennis was disturbed over the fact that, according to his understanding, [] Agency employees under the CIARDS were being terminated voluntarily or involuntarily. Stennis thought this a high percentage and wondered whether it reflected any dissatisfaction with the Agency's performance, in which case he would like to know wherein the Agency had fallen down on the job. Braswell said he had a number of friends and neighbors in the Agency who reported to him that demoralization in the Agency had reached serious proportions.

Braswell added that the Committee was in no position to review the Agency's day-to-day management, but Stennis and Symington and others were concerned about what was going on. He speculated on the possibility that the Committee might call for a group of distinguished private citizens, such as had been set up some years ago to review the air defense problem, to examine recent changes in the intelligence community in detail and report back to the Committee. I said I had not been present at the Director's meeting with Stennis, but if the Senator or any other members of the Committee had any serious problems we would like to know just what was troubling them and would welcome a chance to try to answer their questions.

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6. [] Met with Guy McConnell, Senate Appropriations Committee staff, whom I briefed on recent developments regarding the Soviet space venture, Chinese ICBM test, a Soviet radar installation, Soviet ICBM modernization, Soviet military assistance to Iraq and Soviet interest in port facilities on the Gulf of Aden.

I showed McConnell Senator Proxmire's 13 April letter to the Director calling for publication of the intelligence budget and termination of covert action operations. He agreed that a "non-committal" response was all that was necessary--i.e. that the Senator's points were receiving due consideration.

McConnell said Chairman McClellan had recently raised with Secretary Richardson the question of making public the intelligence community budget and Richardson had strongly opposed any such suggestion. Senator Pastore had been equally emphatic in recommending against it.

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